mentary formations, the details of which are given below:

State	District	Area
1. Meghalaya	West Khasi Hills	Balat, Manai, Ranikhor, Gomaghat, Aluhwadi- Rilang Nonghallam Tract.
2. Meghalaya	West Khasi Hills	Philangdiloin-Lang-Par Tract.
3. Meghalaya	Jaintia Hills	(a) T rangblang Pdenshikha area.
		(b) Wah-Sung Valley
4. Meghalaya	East and West Garo Hills	(a) Anek Asangiri-Rasubelpar, Songsikik-Nongkhara
		(b) Nangalbibra

(c) As a result of reconnaissance survey carried out by AMD during the last three years new anomalies/ occurrences of uranium have also been located in the following areas of other States:

State	District	Area
1. Haryana	Mohindergarh	Antari-Beharipur
2. Karnataka	North Kanara	Arbail
3. Arunachal Pradesh	Subansiri	Jamiri Kaying
4. Bihar	Singhbhum	Dhanjori Conglomerate
5. Orissa	Mayurbhanj	Dadam Pahar
6. Andhra Pradesh.	Nellore	Kasturi Gattu
7. Himachal Pradesh	Simla	Sanipaoni—Otha
8. Uttar Pradesh	Nainital	Kathul—Danaur
9. Rajasthan	Udaipur	Karbar—Parsad

Of these areas detailed exploratory drilling has been taken up at Arbail in North Kanara District, Karnataka to test the sub-surface behaviour of uranium mineralisation in view of the promise they show. The other areas are under various stages of investigations.

Steps for uninterrupted flow of Traffic on the Srinagar National Highway

1272. SHRI GHULAM RASOOL KAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Srinagar National Highway remained closed due to snowfall on the 25th December, 1985, if so, what is the number of days for which it remained closed during the recent winter; and

(b) whether any responsibility for non-clearance of this road for a long time was fixed and what steps Government have taken for uninterrupted flow of traffic on this highway in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

MENT (SHRI ARUN SINGH): (a) and (b) Due to unprecedented and continuous snow-fall and avalanches from 25th to 27th December, 1985, Jammu-Srinagar Highway remained closed to traffic from 26th to 30th December, 1985. The Border Roads Organisation undertook snow clearance operation thereafter and restored communication with effect from 31st December, 1985.

For proper coordination and effective traffic management on this Highway, the setting up of a Joint Control Room at Srinagar, with representatives from Army and Border Roads Organisation, has been proposed to the State Government.

Representation regarding Abolition of Sales Tax on Bangles in Delhi

1273. SHRI SYED AHMED HASHMI: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to refer to the reply to unstarred question 626 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 21st November, 1985 and state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation in January, 1986 regarding abolition of sales tax on bangles in Delhi;

(b) whether Government have taken a decision in the matter; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INTERNAL SECURITY (SHRI ARUN NEHRU): (a) and (b) Yes.

(c) The matter has been considered by Delhi Administration. It has not been found possible to agree to the request for abolition of sales tax on bangles in the Union Territory of Delhi.

Forests Development Corporations in the Country

1274. SHRI SALIM ALI:
SHRI KHUSHWANT SINGH:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the densities of the country's forests have decreased as is evident form lands and aerial photography at imageries well below the minimum necessary for ecological health of a tropical country and are therefor virtually non-exploitable for commercial purposes;

(b) if so, what role has been assigned to the Forest Development Corporations in the country considering their present method of functioning;

(c) whether Government are aware of the findings of experienced ecologists, as also of a committee appointed under Dr. Mahav Gadhil by the Department of Environment in the context of introducing tropical pines, that the major threat to the so-called "degraded" natural mixed forests in the country is due to their replacement with monocultures of controversial exotics or other unsuited species; and

(d) whether Government propose to appoint a committee of independent experts or an on-the-spot investigation and impartial assessment of this uneconomical and ecologically destructive practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) It is a fact that the density of forest cover has decreased in our country. It is also a fact that on account of degradation, the forests have become non-exploitable in several parts of the country.

(b) The Forest Development Corporations have been advised to change the practice of replacing extent natural mixed forest by pulp-